



The Secrets of the Auditorium Theater November 8, 2003

Dear Torske Klub Member,

Our regular Torske Klub meeting will be held on November 8, 2003 at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847-824-1556). Cocktail hour begins at Noon. Dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to our tradition, our BOSS, Robert Alsaker, rings the bell.



(c) Auditorium Theatre

As for our speaker, we have bad news and good news. The speaker that we had anticipated is not available due to some scheduling snafu's, but we found an excellent replacement. Our speaker is our own Boss, Rob Alsaker. You may not have realized that Rob was the Executive Director and General Manager of the Auditorium Theater during the 1980's. In that role, he associated with many well-known names in the arts. Rob was in charge of booking the Theater's fine arts series and a number of restoration projects. He'll share some of those stories with us.

Well, it finally happened! We ran out of fresh fish!

Last month, I had 30 reservations at the noon deadline. I ordered fish for 35. 39 showed up. Unlike September, where we had an excess of fish delivered, the fish vendor struggled to fill our order for 35 meals. The late September hurricanes had traveled to the North Atlantic and scattered the fresh fish. Fishing was poor, and he struggled to fill our order for 35. That being said, 4 of our meals were frozen fish fillets rather than steaks. Thanks to the members that step up to accept the substitute. Once again...

► *Make your November Dinner reservation by TUESDAY NOON, Nov 4*

...to insure that you receive a fresh fish dinner. If you're reading this letter, call right now! By consensus of the Torske Klub board, I will note the reservations of the late callers. If we can serve you a fresh fish dinner, all is well. If there is not enough to distribute, the late reservations will be served a substitute.

Call [630-443-6839](tel:630-443-6839) at any time day or night to leave a reservation. As usual, please leave your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, NAME, and the TOTAL number of people in your party. The same information is required when you reserve for other members. As we did last year, this reservation phone is unattended since it is an answering system only. It will ring 4 times before answering. If you need to speak to me urgently, please call my office at 847-781-6820 during weekday business hours. If I am not there, leave a message at either phone and I'll get back to you. I am frequently out of town during the reservation period, so please be patient with my response.

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For Reservations Please Call (630) 443-6839

Ken Larson, Secretary • 3710 King George Lane St. Charles, IL 60174 • Email: larsonk@hp.com



For those with email, feel free to send me a note to larsonk@hp.com with the same information and the message title "Torske Klub Reservation". I will reply to that with a confirmation of receipt. I believe that I have an email for everyone that wants an email notice. If not, send me a note and I'll add you.

I have November dinner reservations from 3, 13C, 22, 43A, 47, 51, 55, 64A, 73C, 85, 98, 114, 126..

News from the Board of Directors

I mentioned last month that perhaps the only perk of being a board member is going to the board meeting every year or so. Well, we had a board meeting at Rob's house this last month. It happened to conflict with the Cub's playoff game, but that motivated us to finish quicker than usual so that we could listen and partake of the *wonderful and elegant* desserts that Rob's wife Evy prepared for us. A few items of interest to the klub:

- ▶ Our Assistant Boss, Don Hogansen, asked to be relieved of his duties as the program chairman. He has been doing this almost 10 years. You may know that Don has taken some other duties as the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce president. He feels it is time for a change, although the board wishes he would stay on. Please join us in thanking Don for this long tenure of service and the excellent programs we have had.
- ▶ We are searching for a new program chairman. We have some ideas for future programs and if you have a suggestion for a speaker in the future, call Rob for now.
- ▶ We are investigating the options for the distribution of Linie Aquavit. In other words, how can we distribute more?
- ▶ We can report that the Klub is good financial shape, but as the Boss said last month we need more members.

Thanks again to Evy and Rob for their hospitality.

The Madison Trip

I can sum this up in one word...WOW! We started off the morning with a little tailgate, continental breakfast of bagels, danish and coffee. The morning was crisp, but gorgeous, and the bus ride enjoyable for an autumn trip to Madison. The Madison Torske Klubben is about one block from the state capitol building and their dining room on the upper floor has a marvelous view of Lake Monona and of Monona Terrace, the Frank Lloyd Wright designed convention hall.

Our Madison meal was much like our own, except for the buttered lefsa as an appetizer during the cocktail ½ hour. The speaker was an author of the History of Beer making in Wisconsin, interesting and appropriate to the group.

One notable difference to the klubs is the member selection. Their membership is limited and selective to a few Norwegians from different fields of study and occupation. I suppose that there are so many Norwegians in southern Wisconsin, one has to limit them in some way. Our klub membership criteria are a bit more relaxed: do you like Torske? and do you have \$20 in your pocket?

We also liked the idea of name tags for the members. We may do this instead of the ticket for dinner in the future.

I received many personal thanks from the membership for putting this together. As I mentioned each time, I just write the news. The real thanks go to Rob Alsaker and Bill Schreidrich. Nicely done, gentlemen. By the way, thanks to the men who poured the drinks on the way home, especially, Robert Jaeger who supplied the Linie Aquavit.

By way of this letter to the Madison Torske Klubben president, Trygve Lonnenbotn, let me extend our gratitude for your hospitality and friendship and the delightful day at your magnificent klub.

We have enclosed an attachment collage of photos from my camera and that of Ron Bentsen.

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October Torske Klub Meeting

Thanks to Rich Wielock for his fine job as Torskemaster.

My thanks to you all for the attention and appreciation of my talk about the Library of Congress. I have to admit that ½ way through the talk, my glasses fogged up and I couldn't reference my notes. I forgot to tell a number of good stories, such as getting training for my gas mask. It wasn't as simple as 'put on the gas mask and run'. With all the tunnels on Capitol Hill, there is concern that someone who is contaminated will use a tunnel to travel to other buildings, thus contaminating them as well. We were instructed to leave by the designated exit and we would be directed to a mobile decontamination center. At that location we would have to strip and be decontaminated. When I looked around the room, I saw two kinds of people: the old, matronly librarians and the gorgeous, young, co-ed variety Congressional aides. I immediately decided that if I was in that situation, I would ignore that tunnel rule. It would be much more fun to strip with Congress than with the librarians. [I can dream, can't I?]

Remember to bring a Guest!

Any male guest to the Torske Klub this season, who is 21 - 50 years old, will have his first dinner paid for by the Klub, if he joins the Torske Klub.

By the way, there is much more information about the Library at web site <http://www.loc.gov>. The Congressional Research Service has public information at <http://www.crs.gov>.

Membership and Dues

Dues notices were sent out last month. We have received about 60% of the dues. Remember to send your \$35, in American money, to me or submit them at the dinner. Membership cards will be issued in January.

New Member: Dr. Howard Kessler

We were honored to have Dr. Howard Kessler attend the dinner last month and join us as a member. Dr. Kessler resides in Chicago and was lured to our gathering by the ad placed in the Vasa Park program last June. Velkommen!

See you all at the dinner.

Beste Hilsen,

Ken

Madison Torske Klubben Trip

October 4, 2003

Madison, Wisconsin

